



Invasive Non-Native Species



Environment Agency

Invasive Species Biosecurity Network & Action Group quarterly updates: 2019 Spring Newsletter and Invasive Species Week Special

Invasive Species Week 2019

Members of the Invasive Species and Biosecurity Network (ISBN) and the Invasive Species Action Group (ISAG) are passionately committed to helping reduce the impact of invasive species and disease on the environment. We aim to ensure that all EA staff understand the risks associated with the activities they undertake, and how to carry them out in a biosecure way.

The networks are also a way of sharing knowledge across Areas, often relating to new invasive species occurrences, associated problems and best practice. New scientific research and developments are discussed along with case studies on bi-monthly teleconferences, so up to date treatment strategies are used for removing invasive populations and/or preventing spread.



For more information please visit us on [Sharepoint](#), or [Yammer](#).

We plan for promotional events, such as last month's Invasive Species Week. Across the whole country, area ISBN reps were hard at work running awareness sessions and other interactive activities. We hope that raising awareness of invasive species will make biosecurity procedures normal practice, result in quicker identification of new INNS occurrences, and result, in a better protected environment.

This year's Invasive Species Week we ran internal campaigns through the intranet, emails and events at our offices and depots. These included Yammer discussions, Bake Off competitions, and interactive treasure hunt and rolling PowerPoint presentations in reception areas. Our external campaign relied on communication with our customers and partners via email, social media, as well as radio and television interviews.

We were able to contribute to the wider aims of Invasive Species Week, which this year saw the involvement of 319 other organisations. Just look at what was achieved!



Trevor Renals, Senior Technical Advisor, Invasive Species, said: "Enhancing biosecurity is one of our ten main goals for the Defra 25-year plan. Our approach to adopting good biosecurity has been recognised and emulated across the Defra group. It is a core part of the professional way we do our work and our commitment to protecting the environment."



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Invasive species and biosecurity is a concern all year round not just for one week. If you have any questions or concerns about how you or your team can be better at biosecurity get in contact! Why not ask **your local rep** to run an awareness session in a team meeting? Or include invasive species & biosecurity as a stretch objective in your IPP?

National

For this year's Invasive Species week we provided articles for the Monitoring Monthly Newsletter, Wet and Wild, as well as the Ops Magazine in the hope that we would reach a wide range of field staff. A template presentation was shared with Areas. NEAS staff participated in a webinar event, lead by Trevor Renals.

Invasive Species Week was also promoted on Easinet, through Highlights and #TeamEA. During the week, daily emails were available to adapt to make more Area relevant and send out to Area staff (with ALT approval) so that a broader range of staff could be reached.

We also used [Yammer](#) to start conversations and share information with 427 members across the whole of Defra.

Our external Invasive Species Week campaigns relied on the use of social media and direct contact with our customers and partners via email, with a signature promoting the event and containing hyperlinks to the Non Native Species Secretariat website. Thank you to everyone who saw the request on Easinet and in newsletters and included the signature in their emails.

Social Media campaigns followed the themes of each day to tie in with @invasivesp, and also used #invasivesweek #GetINNSvolved and... You can Google these for more information.

We also managed to get some willing volunteers to write some articles on the work that they do to contribute to the eradication of invasive non-native species. One focuses on [fish](#), and the other on [floating pennywort](#).

More information contact [Karen Twine](#)

North East

In the North East we ran one of our Invasive Species week annual drop-in sessions. For this we created our own quiz and encouraged staff to complete this and the word search from national. We pulled together invasive invertebrates, which people could view under the microscope, had an assortment of different taxidermy crayfish and showcased a "what's on your wellies" growing tray. Finally we had an invasive top trumps competition with the winner shown below in all his glory!



More information contact [Tim Eldridge](#)



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East Midlands

American skunk cabbage eradication



Following the identification of American Skunk Cabbage in the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment, our FBG Team Leader, Victoria Carnill and Biodiversity Officer Louise Hill made it onto the BBC news to raise awareness of the plant and the need to remove it. There

was also a [newsletter](#) article on the eradication.



[More information contact Louise Hill](#)

Topmouth gudgeon eradication



Over the winter the local FBG, S&C and A&R teams joined forces with the Virtual National Non-Native Fish Eradication Team, undertook a topmouth gudgeon

eradication in the East Midlands. Biosecurity on site was paramount to reduce the risk of moving larval stages and small fish off site on PPE and equipment.



[More information contact Jake Dorey](#)

Invasive species Week 2019 -

Naomi gave a talk to Environment Management Site Controllers, to discuss the need to be aware of invasive species and be more biosecurity conscious. This included a quiz and some handouts, as well as the results of the 'what's on your wellies?' scrapings.





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A slide identification challenge was also held in the Trentside office. And the annual Invasive Species Bake-Off was a massive success raising money for Water Aid. The winners received environmentally friendly prizes this year.



portable pressure washers and drying rack along garage for fish stop nets.

Other work around the area includes bidding for a new drying room at our Shrewsbury office, continuing biosecurity improvements at Lea Marston principal depot and installing boot wash facilities.

[More information contact Martin Fenn](#)

Invasive Species Week 2019 – In West Midlands we managed to celebrate Invasive Species Week in lots of ways. We had poster around our main offices and held invasive species awareness sessions at Shrewsbury, Tewkesbury and Fradley offices. Main highlight being our Deal or No Deal INNS special at Fradley!



[More information contact Naomi Diver](#)

West Midlands

Biosecurity review – Over the winter we have been reviewing our biosecurity facilities throughout the West Midlands and looking to make improvements at key offices and depots. At our Fradley office we continue to work with Facilities to try and improve the limited biosecurity options available at this site including using



Martin Fenn held a WebEx on Invasive Species Management and of course the obligatory INNS themed bake off, with the winner being Jo Chamberlain with her Asian hornet cake!



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Home **Faye Hudson**
Biodiversity Technical Officer

News and weather **Introduction**

Meet a colleague My name is Faye Hudson and I am currently on assignment with Fisheries, Biodiversity & Geomorphology (FBG) from Sampling & Collection (S&C) in the Thames area. I have worked at the Environment Agency for over two years and I have been involved with a number of different projects regarding biosecurity and invasive, non-native species (INNS).

May 2019 **Can you describe your work in general? And what are you currently working on?**

Faye Hudson My day job with FBG involves promoting biodiversity, conservation and environmental gains across a variety of functions/services, acting as a consultant on planning applications, flood risk activity permits and discharge consents (among other things). I am in the Thames Biosecurity Group, which aims to promote best practice and biosecurity awareness within the area. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry!

Page tools **Can you describe your work in general? And what are you currently working on?**

Email My day job with FBG involves promoting biodiversity, conservation and environmental gains across a variety of functions/services, acting as a consultant on planning applications, flood risk activity permits and discharge consents (among other things). I am in the Thames Biosecurity Group, which aims to promote best practice and biosecurity awareness within the area. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry!

Print Last year my colleague Tim Flood (Analysis & Reporting) and I undertook Floating pennywort surveys on the River Thames (between Reading and Shepperton) and the Jubilee River. Floating pennywort is an invasive, non-native species and is a green plant with fleshy stems and roundish, bluntly toothed leaves. It can grow up to 7cm a day, which can quickly result in river channels being completely covered over, other plants being out-competed, flood risk increasing and obstruction to navigation.

Feedback Our surveys identified patches of Floating pennywort, recorded their locations (using the Collector app) and subsequently had them removed by Ops/contractors. This work was essential to identifying smaller patches before they become a major problem and facilitate the species' spread; and to identifying reaches that are currently free of this invasive plant. Recording the precise locations of the patches was also crucial to providing Ops and contractors with precise locations and extents. We are planning another set of surveys at the beginning of July (you may have already seen us going down the river before this article comes out).

There was even some time for staff to take part in some Himalayan balsam bashing on an Environment Day at Perry Bar and Witton.



More information contact [Martin Fenn](#)

Thames

Faye Hudson became the face of meet a colleague on the [Intranet](#)! She talked about her role in FBG and Thames Biosecurity Group. Have a read if you missed it. The Biosecurity Action Group also designed an internal poster for Invasive Species Week to show what they had achieved over the 2018/2019 period. It highlighted the equipment available on the ARCO website for biosecurity kits to keep in cars and work vehicles

Invasive Non-Native Species Week 13th – 17th May 2019

What has Thames Area delivered in 2018/19 for biosecurity?

Sunbury depot has taken delivery of a dedicated mobile hot water pressure washer - the best way to remove pathogens & INNS!



Managed and controlled the proliferation of Floating Pennywort through co-ordinated action involving teams across the Area!



A trial eradication for the White River crayfish at a fishery in Thames, the only known location for this species in the UK!



Turned EA data into published evidence, linking the expansion of the invasive shrimp in the Thames to the canal traffic!



Trialling a handheld battery powered cold water jet washer for cleaning equipment in the field. Available soon on ARCO!



Produced an Area Biosecurity Action Plan. Priority actions include delivering cleaning & drying facilities for Windrush store!



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO ACT!

Get your Biosecurity Cleaning Equipment from ARCO and use it!
 You must **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** boots and equipment after every site
 Report biosecurity incidents, near misses and good practice on **SHERMS**
 Volunteer as your team's Biosecurity Champion!
 Report any suspected INNS to the A&R team inbox:
A&RTeamThames@environment-agency.gov.uk

Where to find more information:
 Check, Clean, Dry Campaign: www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry
 Biosecurity e-learning course!
 'Thames Biosecurity Group' & 'Invasive Species and Biosecurity Network' Yammer Pages
 Your local, friendly A&R and FBG teams!





Thames **BIOSECURITY** Action Group



More information contact [Faye Hudson](#)



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Kent and South London

- We held lunchtime events at 5 offices with different materials and samples.
- We had an amended version of Trevor's scrolling presentation rolling on the reception screen of our area office, along with a nomadic display in the office for the week.
- We tailored the weekly buzz articles for the area and also had two more (one to advertise events in the week and one as a thank you)
- We are running the What's on your wellies experiment, and will reveal the results in another weekly buzz in the future.
- Our area director send out an email to all Team Leaders in the week prior to INNS week with guidance on events and activities during INNS week.
- During INNS week we had daily emails from ALT members on different topics for INNS/Biosecurity. A different member of ALT sent out an email every day which had a great impact.
- We also sent daily Tweets and the Canterbury drop-in session was broadcast as a Twitter live-feed.
<https://twitter.com/JoeFishingEA/status/1128983184001994752>
- We sought feedback at each event with interactive boards on barriers to good biosecurity which has given us material to review and plan actions around going forward.

[More information contact Jo Heisse](#)

Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire

This year the focus of Invasive Species Week was on floating pennywort. A Volunteer Workshop coordinated by FBG and Waterways in partnership with Rivercare and CambsACRE was held with the aim of encouraging volunteer engagement for the floating pennywort control programme on the Bedford

Ouse. A huge number of people attended the event which was held on the Tuesday evening of INNS week with many people interested in volunteering to undertake work on their local stretch of the river. Rivercare are now working with the volunteers to set up groups along the river. These volunteers will provide survey reports so that we are able to track locations and growth of the pennywort as well as some active working parties to help with removal of small rafts of pennywort. This will all feed into the Area Floating Pennywort Strategy.



[More information contact Lesley Saint](#)

Hertfordshire & North London

The HNL Biosecurity Group took the lead to promote INNS Week and we followed the themes for each day. In HNL we show cased the partnership working we are carrying out with the Colne Catchment Partnership to clear Floating pennywort in the Colne catchment.

We highlighted Environmental Incident reporting showing how and when to do this through the use of specific examples that had been recorded in SHERMS.

To highlight issues for riparian habitats we show cased problems with Himalayan balsam and Giant hogweed. We also shared information on horizon scanning for potential new INNS threats knocking on our door and people to look out for. We also had information



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explaining why urban environments are less resilient and thus more susceptible to invasion.

We provided information on how our Ops teams have been contributing to the survey work for monitoring the Oak Processionary Moth.

Alongside all the information put up on our display board we sent out daily emails and promoted the INNS/Biosecurity word search and Snakes & Ladders competition. We also organised an INNS identification competition using Sli-do. We advertised the events in the Weekly Buzz and Sam Ho produced a Blog for INNS week on Floating pennywort that was put up on the DEFRA website.

[More information contact Colette Sales.](#)